

IN THE CLAIMS

Presented below are the pending claims. No amendment is being made in this response.

1. (previously amended) A beverage dispenser, comprising:
 - a water supply;
 - a reverse osmosis water treatment system coupled to said water supply,
 - said reverse osmosis water treatment system comprising a flexible bag reservoir;
 - a CO₂ source;
 - a carbonator coupled to said reservoir and said CO₂ source, said carbonator including at least one hydrophobic hollow fiber proximate to which water is carbonated;
 - a beverage syrup source; and
 - a customer interface enabling the dispensing of beverage syrup from said beverage syrup source and carbonated water generated by said carbonator to form finished drinks.
2. (original) The dispenser of Claim 1, wherein CO₂ is supplied through said hollow fiber.
3. (original) The dispenser of Claim 2, wherein water flows across the outside of said hollow fiber.
4. (original) The dispenser of Claim 1, wherein water is supplied through said hollow fiber.

5. (previously amended) The dispenser of Claim 1, and further comprising a chiller, said flexible bag reservoir proximate said chiller.
6. (previously canceled)
7. (previously canceled)
8. (original) The dispenser of Claim 1, wherein said hydrophobic hollow fiber comprises polypropylene.
9. (original) The dispenser of Claim 1, and further comprising a plain water circuit, such that both carbonated and non-carbonated beverages may be produced.
10. (original) The dispenser of Claim 1, and further comprising a pre-carbonator coupled to said carbonator, said pre-carbonator carbonating water before further carbonation in said carbonator.
11. (original) The dispenser of Claim 10, wherein said pre-carbonator comprises at least one hollow fiber.
12. (previously amended) The dispenser of Claim 10, and further comprising a pre-carbonation reservoir coupled to said pre-carbonator, said pre-carbonation reservoir holding carbonated water.
13. (previously amended) The dispenser of Claim 1, and further comprising a carbonation reservoir coupled to said carbonator, said carbonation reservoir holding carbonated water.
14. (original) The dispenser of Claim 13, and further comprising a plain water circuit, such that both carbonated and non-carbonated beverages may be produced.
15. (previously amended) A method of dispensing beverages, comprising:
supplying water;

treating the water through reverse osmosis;
storing the treated water in a flexible bag;
supplying CO₂;
carbonating the water from the flexible bag with the CO₂ proximate to
at least one hydrophobic hollow fiber; and
dispensing carbonated water and beverage syrup to form finished
drinks.

16. (previously amended) The method of Claim 15, and further comprising
chilling the water in the flexible bag.
17. (previously canceled)
18. (previously canceled)
19. (original) The method of Claim 15, and further comprising dispensing non-carbonated water, such that both carbonated and non-carbonated beverages may be produced.
20. (original) The method of Claim 15, and further comprising pre-carbonating the water before carbonating the water.
21. (previously added) A beverage dispenser, comprising:
 - a water supply;
 - a CO₂ source;
 - a carbonator coupled to said water supply and said CO₂ source, said carbonator including at least one hydrophobic hollow fiber through which water is supplied; and
 - a beverage syrup source, such that beverage syrup and carbonated water are dispensed to form finished drinks.

22. (previously added) The dispenser of Claim 21, and further comprising a water treatment system, such that said water supply comprises treated water.
23. (previously added) The dispenser of Claim 22, wherein said water treatment system comprises a reverse osmosis water treatment system.
24. (previously added) The dispenser of Claim 21, and further comprising a plain water circuit, such that both carbonated and non-carbonated beverages may be dispensed.